

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12
HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /106 W
-----048542 071659Z /41

O 071625Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 774

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 7088

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, BE, CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRIAN-BELGIAN RELATIONS: NO BREAK NOW

REF: KINSHASA 6910

1. ZAIRIAN PRESS ANNOUNCED ON JULY 7 THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BELGIUM WOULD NOT BE BROKEN. THE PRESS ATTEMPTED TO CAST THIS DECISION IN A MAGNANIMOUS LIGHT, STATING THAT "OBJECTIVE OBSERVERS KNOW THAT ZAIRE HAS NEVER DISRUPTED RELATIONS WITH BELGIUM. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE REVERSE." AS A FINAL THREAT AGAINST BELGIUM, "ELIMA" WARNED THAT ANY FURTHER BILATERAL DIFFICULTIES WOULD CLEARLY BE THAT COUNTRY'S RESPONSIBILITY.

2. THE PRESS ALSO TOOK AIM ONCE AGAIN AT BELGIAN FONMIN SIMONET, CLAIMING THAT SIMONET'S VISIT TO MOROCCO AND KING HASSAN'S SUBSEQUENT TELEPHONE CALL TO MOBUTU WERE UNRELATED EVENTS. ELIMA OFFERED AS PROOF THE FACT THAT "THE TALKS BETWEEN
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HASSAN AND MOBUTU WERE HELD LONG BEFORE THE RECENT VISIT OF MR. SOMONET". ELIMA CONCLUDED THAT SIMONET WAS NO FRIEND OF ZAIRE AND HAD NO RIGHT TO TAKE CREDIT FOR HEADING OFF BREAK IN RELATIONS.

3. COMMENT: PRESS WARNINGS AND RENEWED ATTACK ON SIMONET SEEM DESIGNED TO COVER MOBUTU'S RETREAT FROM POSITION WHICH ALMOST

EVERYONE INCLUDING MOBUTU'S ADVISERS RECOGNIZED AS GOING TOO FAR. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT ZAIRIAN OPPOSITION ACTIVITY IN BELGIUM WILL NOT REMAIN AN ISSUE WHICH MAY CAUSE FURTHER STRAINS IN GOZ-GOB RELATIONS. WHOLE AFFAIR HAS PROBABLY ADDED ADDITIONAL TARNISH TO MOBUTUS REPUTATION BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD AS RESPONSIBLE LEADER. ON THE OTHER HAND, BELGIAN AMBASSADOR HERE HAS INDICATED THAT AS A RESULT OF THIS FLARE-UP HE EXPECTS GOB DISCREETLY TO SEEK NEW WAYS OF CURBING SOME OF MORE EXTREME OPPOSITIONIST ACTIVITIES. THERE IS ALSO POSSIBILITY THAT MOBUTU SOUGHT IN ADDITION TO PLACATE SOME OF ZAIRIAN MALCONTENTS WHO HAVE BEEN LEVELING CHARGES OF NEO-COLONIALISM AGAINST THE MOBUTU REGIME. CUTLER

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